

"Felix, the Cat" Cartoon Prologues to Be a Feature of Short Subject Month

PROLOGUES and presentations for short subjects have passed beyond the point of discussion, and have become a striking reality to showmen, as will be illustrated by the suggested novelty along this line now available to exhibitors presenting "Felix, the Cat Cartoons," drawn by Pat Sullivan, creator of Felix, and distributed by Educational Pictures, Inc.

Mr. Sullivan, the artist, working with Gordon S. White, Director of Advertising and Publicity for Educational Pictures, has devised a series of presentations and prologues to be staged in conjunction with the "Felix" cartoons. The idea will be given wide attention by alert showmen during "Short Subject Month," January, 1926.

With prologues rapidly being devised for all manner of lengthy features, it was merely a matter of time before the little features would be accorded a pre-screening presentation sufficiently novel to attract and hold the interest of patrons of the theatres. Messrs. Sullivan and White have achieved a striking success in their new adventure.

As the series of "Felix the Cat" cartoons are released by the Educational exchanges, exhibitors will find these prologues instantly available. Letters to Educational's home office indicate a keen desire on the part of many exhibitors to stage these prologues, one of the largest first run houses in the Northwest having closed for the service already. With the introduction of new cartoons, slight changes in the novel prologues may be made, and thus the series in each instance can be put over to a running start.

Theatre owners desiring to avail themselves of the "Felix, the Cat" prologues must first obtain permission from Mr. Sullivan, who holds the rights for such stage performances. But this permission will be forthcoming, without delay, through the plan devised and approved by Messrs. Sullivan and White. All that is necessary is for the theatre owner, after booking the cartoons, to write to the Educational home offices, in New York City, and a letter from Mr. Sullivan, embodying his permission, will go forward to the showman at once. Mr. Sullivan will give his consent to the performance in the theatre named by the exhibitor for a limited time, without the payment to him of any royalties.

This is a stunt that can be put on as an elaborate act, or as a review, and one that will cost very little aside from the expense of costuming the players used in the presentation. Three suggestions for this Felix Pantomime are presented herewith. With each is a sketch giving an idea of the "Felix Walk," and other business for the unique little performance.

FELIX PANTOMIME—PLATE 1.

(This requires only one person dressed as a cat. This should be a person with some stage presence and ability at pantomime. The other parts are so simple that they can be disposed of with no difficulty.)

Scene: Suburban yard showing kitchen door and window.

Time: Early morning.

Enter FELIX, plainly worried. Indicates hunger; walks around looking for food.

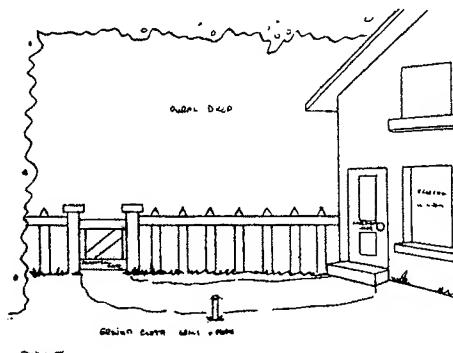


Plate No. 1

Hears steps approaching. Enter MILK-MAN, who places bottle of milk at the door of kitchen.

FELIX exaggeratedly sneaks over to get the milk, turns to look all around first, then grabs for bottle just as the door opens and the cook takes milk inside.

FELIX register a "Curses" and goes back into the FELIX walk. Looks offstage, runs to get rope, which he strings across path to house. FELIX runs to door and faces BUTCHER as he enters. BUTCHER trips over rope, tossing package of meat into air in the direction of FELIX, who prepares to catch it. Package flies over FELIX'S head into the hands of the cook in the doorway. Exit cook and BUTCHER and FELIX goes back into walk.

COOK places prop chicken on window sill. FELIX sees it and sneaks over to get it. COOK appears in window and FELIX sneaks away. Tries again with same result.

FELIX thinks, exits, re-enters with pepper pot. Pantomimes trial of pot, sneezes, then shakes pepper into window, retreating across stage. Loud gasp and sneeze inside kitchen and chicken is blown into the hands of FELIX, who catches it and exits, triumphantly.

FELIX DANCE PANTOMIME—PLATE 2.

(This requires two dancers dressed as Felix and "His Girl Friend." They can be a man and girl or two girls. They should be professional dancers or, perhaps, students of a dancing school. This dance pantomime should be particularly attractive if well staged.)

Place: Suburban roof top or back fence, according to preference.

Time: Night.

Enter FELIX to keep tryst with white lady cat, who is obviously late. FELIX dances to show delighted anticipation, then impa-

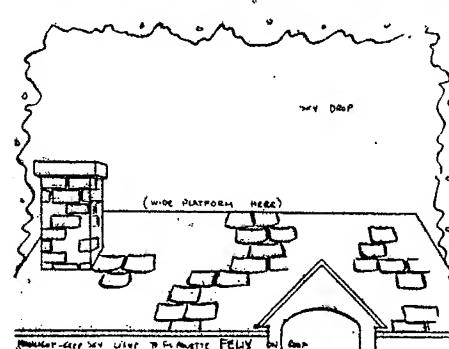


Plate No. 2

tience. Finally he relapses into the FELIX walk. Poses and sulks.

Enter white cat, who coquettles with FELIX. He refuses to be cajoled for a bit, then relents and pursues the lady cat, who dodges him in dance rhythm.

During the dance FELIX pantomimes love for her, to which she indicates indifference. FELIX proposes to her and receives a negative answer.

FELIX sulks and is teased into trying again, whereat he asks why she will not have him. She indicates that she wants a BIG cat of the go-getter, caveman type.

FELIX sulks, then thinks, nods and goes into the dance again. At an opportune moment, FELIX plucks off his tail (a stuffed club) slams the lady cat over the head, catches her in his arms as she falls, and dances off stage swinging her in the air.

CURTAIN

FELIX PANTOMIME—PLATE 3.

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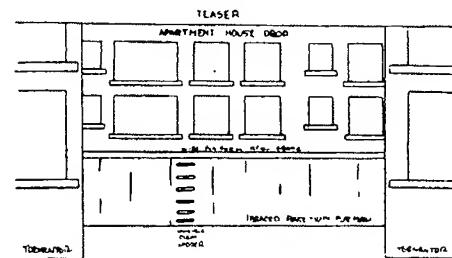
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NOTE: KEEP FIRE ESCAPE DLOOR TO SUBSTANTIATE FELIX IN FENCE.

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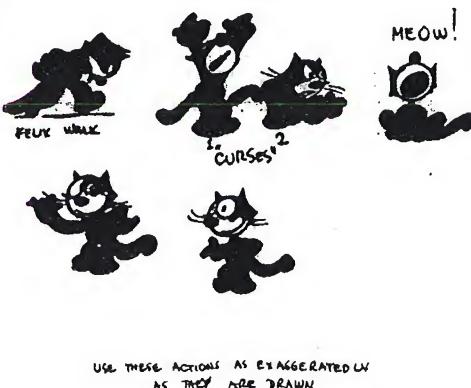


Plate No. 4

Plate 4 gives an idea of the makeup and costumes to be used by the players enacting the roles of the cats.

"Fighting Hearts," New F. B. O. Series, Ready for Production

PLANS are under way at the F. B. O. Hollywood studios for the production of "Fighting Hearts," a new two reel series by Sam Hellman, famous writer.

Actual work on this series will start as soon as the current "Mazie" series is completed.

There will be the usual twelve episodes of "Fighting Hearts" and F. B. O. announces that it will present a strong cast in the new series.

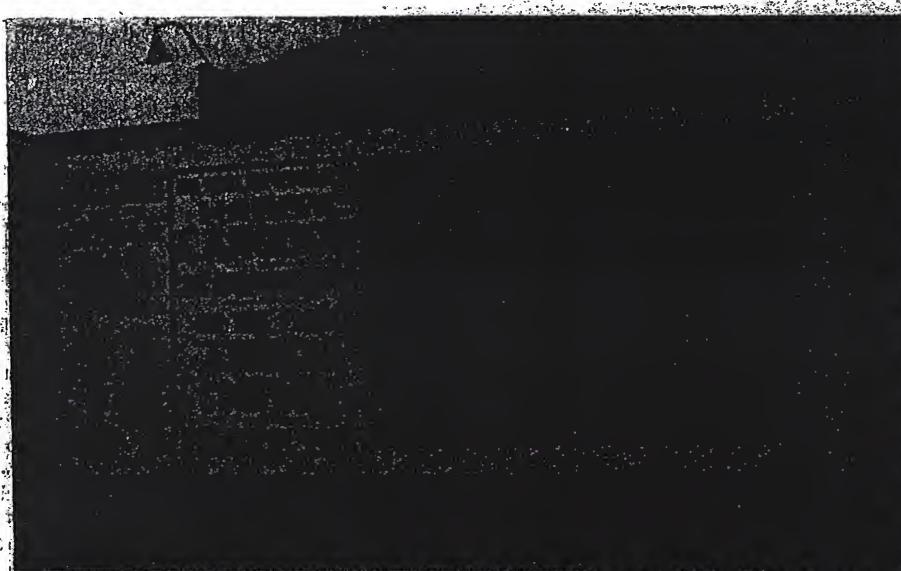
Still another Witwer series will also be produced by F. B. O., it is stated. The purchase was recently announced of Witwer's latest series "Bilgrim's Progress," which details the activities of a taxi driver in a big city.

Two reel production, it is reported, will

continue to be an outstanding feature of the program at F. B. O. The Mazie series is now in the sixth episode with Jimmy Wilkinson and Ralph Ceder splitting the direction.

Ko-Ko Song Car-Tunes

Pathé, Ltd., signed a contract this week with Edwin Miles Fadman, president of Red Seal, whereby it will take over for distribution in Great Britain the Ko-Ko Song Cartunes, the animated series by Max Fleischer. Although only three of the Song Car-tunes have been released so far, their success has been instantaneous and the local directors of Pathé, Ltd., put in an immediate bid for the English rights.



GIVING A SHORT COMEDY SOME OF THE 24-SENT. — The Majestic Theatre, St. Louis, swings into line in the new policy of getting the most out of a program without regard to the length of an item. Herschel Stuart figured that "His Marriage Wow" was worth its share of the big sheet space, and found it was.

"Life's Greatest Thrills" Plays to Capacity in Brandt Houses

WILLIAM BRANDT, prominently connected with the Theatre Owners Chamber of Commerce, and the owner of three big theatres in Brooklyn, has just completed an unusual showing of the International Newsreel novelty two-reeler, "Life's Greatest Thrills" in his theatres, in which he featured the novelty picture above all parts of his programs. The experiment was so successful that several house records were broken. The crowds which flocked to see "Life's Greatest Thrills" topped those on record for some of the biggest productions ever made, Brandt reports.

Brandt's three theatres are the Duffield, the Carlton and the Bunny. In building up his program during the running of "Life's Greatest Thrills," he added an ordinary program five-reeler to his show and then put his entire exploitation campaign behind the International two-reeler. As a result of the

success he had with this move, he characterizes "Life's Greatest Thrills" as "one of the biggest box-office attractions of the year." He expresses his surprise that other exhibitors have not taken advantage of the two-reel novelty for similar showings.

"Uncle Tom's Gal" Released

Burlesque on "Uncle Tom's Cabin" Made Into Two-Reel Century Comedy, Starring Edna Marian

Century Film Corporation announces the release, through all Universal Exchanges, of "Uncle Tom's Gal," a two-reel Century comedy starring Edna Marian, and made as a burlesque on the famous melodrama, "Uncle Tom's Cabin."

It was directed by William Watson. Edna plays a triple role, that of Topsy, as well as those of Little Eva and Eliza. The story concerns the tribulations of a honkey-tonk movie company to film a version of "Uncle Tom's Cabin" in a rural setting. Edna is the farmer's gawky daughter with screen aspirations. How she gets mixed up with the company and takes the various female roles makes a hilarious comedy.

Mintz Had Successful Trip

Nat. L. Mintz, sales representative for M. J. Winkler, has just returned from a trip through the Middle West where he was successful in obtaining releases for the "Krazy Kat" and "Alice Comedies" series, now being handled by the Winkler organization.

Mr. Mintz, after spending two days in New York, is now in Boston assisting in the opening of the Exchange of the Short Reel Film Exchanges, Inc., at 23 Piedmont St. Boston, Mass. This exchange was established to handle the Winkler product exclusively and will distribute "Felix the Cat," "Krazy Kat," "Alice Comedies" and the "Regular Kids" comedies.

Keystone Komedy Kops

Mack Sennett has brought the famous komedy kops, remembered for their antics in Keystone days, back to the screen in a new two-reel comedy entitled "Wandering Willy," a Pathé short feature release. Billy Bevan is the principal "kop" and is aided and abetted by Andy Clyde, Ruth Baird and Kewpie Morgan. In the fun-film the old patrol and a new edition of "kops" do some brand new stunts. Del Lord directed and felt right at home in the undertaking. When the "Keystone Kops" were at their zenith, Del Lord drove the patrol wagon and supplied many of the thrills in the early Sennett comedies.

Grantland Rice "Sportlights"

J. L. Hawkinson, who produces the famous Grantland Rice "Sportlights" reels for release by Pathé, has left for Whitehall, Montana, where he will photograph scenes for a forthcoming sport picture of mountain and other outdoor scenes. Hawkinson will make his headquarters at the Montana Ranch Club near Whitehall, Montana. He expects to get some exceptional scenes of duck and bird shooting, lake fishing and also some big game hunting.

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